

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A lead assembly comprising:

an outer insulative body;

at least one conductor disposed within the outer insulative body, the at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;

an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the at least one conductor welded to the inner electrode, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface and inner electrode end surfaces; and

an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode coupled with at least a portion of the inner electrode outer surface.

2. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the inner electrode outer surface includes a stepped portion having a ledge, and the conductor is disposed on the ledge.

3. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the inner electrode and the outer electrode are welded together.

4. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a portion of the conductor is disposed between the inner electrode outer surface and the outer electrode.

5. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 4, wherein the at least one conductor extends to a distal end, and the distal end is disposed between the inner electrode outer surface and the outer electrode.

6. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the inner electrode outer surface or the outer electrode inner surface include insulation disruption features.

7. (Original) A lead assembly comprising:

an outer insulative body;

at least one conductor disposed within the outer insulative body, the at least one conductor extending from a conductor proximal end to a conductor distal end;

an inner electrode coupled with the at least one conductor, the inner electrode defined in part by an inner electrode inner surface, an inner electrode outer surface and inner electrode end surfaces;

an outer electrode disposed over the inner electrode, the outer electrode having a treated outer surface; and

means for electrically and mechanically coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode without substantially damaging the treated outer surface of the outer electrode.

8. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the means for electrically and mechanically coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes a laser welded coupling formed between the inner electrode and the outer electrode.

9. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the means for electrically and mechanically coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes a magnetic swage coupling.

10. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the inner electrode and the outer electrode are formed of shape memory material.

11. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the conductor is disposed between the outer electrode and the inner electrode, and the outer electrode, the conductor, and the inner electrode are coupled together at substantially the same time.

12. (Original) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, further comprising means for disrupting insulation disposed between the inner and outer electrode.

13-25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising an adhesive disposed adjacent one or a combination of the outer insulative body, the conductor, the inner electrode, or the outer electrode.

27. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein an outer electrode outer surface includes a coated or treated surface.

28. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 27, wherein the coated or treated surface includes IrO<sub>x</sub> or titanium oxide.

30. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the inner electrode and the conductor are welded together.

31. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the weld is visible.

32. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising an insulative tubing disposed over one or both of the conductor or the inner electrode.

33. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein the inner electrode and the outer electrode are laser welded or resistance welded together.

34. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, further comprising an adhesive disposed adjacent one or a combination of the outer insulative body, the conductor, the inner electrode, or the outer electrode.

35. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, further comprising an insulative tubing disposed over at least a portion of the conductor and the inner electrode.

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

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Page 5  
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36. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, wherein the means for electrically and mechanically coupling the outer electrode with the inner electrode includes a resistance welded coupling formed between the inner electrode and the outer electrode.

37. (New) The lead assembly as recited in claim 7, further comprising means for interlocking the outer electrode with the inner electrode, the means for interlocking disposed on one or both of an outer electrode inner surface or the inner electrode outer surface.